

1 **CLAIMS**

2 **1.** A method comprising:
3 storing a computer application program on one or more computer-readable
4 media;
5 storing a first version of a shared component in the one or more computer-
6 readable media for execution on a computer system that stores at least a second
7 version of the shared component; and
8 establishing a logical relationship between the computer application
9 program and the first version of the shared component so that the application uses
10 the first version of the shared component when the application is executed on the
11 computer system.

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13 **2.** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the establishing a logical
14 relationship between the computer application program and the first version of the
15 shared component includes configuring a logical directory data structure that has
16 multiple logical directories so that the computer application program and the first
17 version of the shared component are referenced within a first logical directory, and
18 wherein the second version of the shared component is referenced within a second
19 logical directory.

3. The method as recited in claim 2, further comprising storing a reference to an indicator in the logical directory where the computer application program and the first version of the shared resource are referenced, the indicator indicating to the computer application that the first version of the shared resource referenced by the indicator is referenced in the logical directory where the computer application is referenced.

4. One or more computer readable media, comprising:
computer-executable instructions for storing an application in a directory of
a computer system;

computer-executable instructions for storing a local version of a shared program component in the directory; and

computer-executable instructions for installing a file that indicates to the application that the application should utilize the local version of the shared program component without regard for other versions of the stored program component that may be present on the computer system.

5. A method, comprising:

- calling a shared component in a computer system;
- detecting a local file that indicates the presence of a locally-stored version of the shared component; and
- in response to detecting the local file, utilizing the locally-stored version of the shared component instead of a global version of the shared component present in the computer system.

1 6. The method as recited in claim 5, further comprising searching for the
2 local file when the shared component is called and, if the local file is not found,
3 utilizing a global version of the shared component.
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5 7. The method as recited in claim 5, wherein the local file is an empty
6 file.
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8 8. One or more computer-readable media containing computer-
9 executable instructions that, when executed on a computer, perform the method
10 recited in claim 5.
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12 9. A computer readable medium containing computer-executable
13 instructions that, when executed on a computer, perform the following:

14 storing a computer application program in a computer system; and

15 storing a first version of a shared component in the computer system for
16 execution on the computer system, the computer system storing at least a second
17 version of the shared component.
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10. The computer readable medium as recited in claim 9, wherein the computer application program is stored on a hard disk drive of the computer system, the hard drive having discrete memory partitions, and wherein the computer-executable instructions further perform:

storing the computer application program and the first version of the shared component within a first memory partition; and

storing the second version of the shared component in a second memory partition.

11. The computer readable medium as recited in claim 9, the computer-executing instructions further performing the step of storing a file on the computer system that indicates the presence of the first version of the shared component.

12. The computer readable medium as recited in claim 9, wherein the shared component stored by the computer-executable instructions is a component object model (COM) component.

13. The computer readable medium as recited in claim 9, wherein the shared component stored by the computer-executable instructions is a dynamic-link library (DLL) component.

14. A computer system, comprising:
memory divided into a plurality of discrete partitions;
a first application program stored in a first memory partition;
a first version of a shared component stored in a second memory partition,
the first version of the shared component useable by at least a second application
program;
a second version of the shared component stored in the first memory
partition;
an indicator that, when present, indicates the existence of the second
version of the shared component; and
wherein the first application utilizes the second version of the shared
component if the indicator is present.

15. A computer system as recited in claim 14, wherein the indicator includes a file having a name conforming to a pre-defined type.

16. A computer system as recited in claim 15, wherein the file is an empty file.

17. A computer system as recited in claim 14, wherein the indicator is stored in the first memory partition.

18. A computer system as recited in claim 14, wherein the memory includes a hard disk drive, and wherein the memory partitions are directories.

19. A computer system as recited in claim 14, wherein the first application utilizes the first version of the shared component if the indicator is not present.

20. The computer system as recited in claim 14, wherein the shared component is a component object model (COM) component.

21. The computer system as recited in claim 14, wherein the shared component is a dynamic-link library (DLL) component.

22. A directory tree data structure having multiple directories stored on one or more computer-readable media, comprising:

a first directory that contains a pointer to a first version of a shared component useable by a plurality of computer programs;

a second directory that contains a pointer to an application program and a pointer to a second version of the shared component; and

wherein the application program utilizes the second version of the shared component when the application program calls the shared component.

